

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

The broadcast flag will inhibit legitimate use. Content owners claim it will not inhibit "legitimate" use, but they unreasonably define what is "legitimate" in such a narrow degree that there is essentially no "legitimate" use.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

Yes. I presently have a local area network that connects my digital cable, TV, receiver, DVD and computer all together. I am concerned that this flag will not allow me to receive and record video and audio signals on my PC for later playback. I am concerned that I will not be able to use the DVD in my PC to send video and audio to my receiver and then to my TV.

I also am able to send video and audio from the cable system and DVD and computer to any computer, receiver or TV in my house, over either an empty analog channel the existing coax, or over my high-speed Ethernet wiring. I am concerned that the broadcast flag may significantly reduce my ability to efficiently and completely use my fully interconnected and interoperable local area network and attached edge devices in my house.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

I have a "component" system composed of many different devices of different manufacture and age. It works just fine. I am greatly concerned that the broadcast flag will render the system unworkable in many applications.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Most certainly. While I am most supportive of standards, any time the government mandates inclusion of use-inhibiting features, it invariably makes the wrong technology choice and the mandated approach quickly becomes obsolete.

Let "the market" determine whether manufacturers and content owners will cooperate to include features such as this. If it does, then they should also be able to reach agreement on the standard.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

The hardware and software required to recognize the flag and implement any required actions/nonactions will certainly *not* be free. Similarly content owners will incur some cost to put the flag in the content, and that cost will surely be passed on to paying content recipients. The FCC will therefore be increasing the already bloated cost of content.

In addition, there will certainly be efforts to "crack" the flag, and content owners will employ countermeasures to cracking. More cost.

I see the day when flag cracking Perl script will appear on ties or T-shirts, just as it did with DECSS. Will the FCC also outlaw such ties?

Other Comments:

The FCC should decline to impose hardware and software standards in equipment and thereby side with the content owners who have considerably overreached in their attempts to maintain an obsolete business and distribution model.

I am continually amazed that a Commission administration that preaches "deregulation" has absolutely no qualms about regulating when it is to benefit or protect large incumbent operators.

Your job is to protect consumers and the public interest. Not the private interests of large multinational corporations. We elected the ones who put you in office, and are therefore the ones you should be considering.

Don't conscript my equipment in a misguided attempt to protect an industry that does not deserve or even need protection.